



TOWARD THE GOAL...

Reducing mishaps by 50%

Committed to Protecting Our People

What does it take to stop the loss of life, the missed opportunities, the wasted potential, and the broken families resulting from preventable mishaps?

Finding ways to reduce these mishaps was the thrust of recent discussions during the Navy and Marine Corps Safety Council's first meeting. I and my then-counterpart, Col. Buck Dewey from USMC headquarters Safety Division, co-chaired the Washington, D.C., gathering. The meeting's importance was emphasized by the presence of the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon England; the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Safety, Ms. Connie DeWitte; and 30 flag and general officers. Many others from throughout the Navy participated via video teleconference.

Secretary England emphasized, "Safety is very, very high on my personal agenda." Not only is attention to safety "a great visible sign of your commitment to our men and women, but safety programs produce a very large, direct benefit to the total force."

Ms. DeWitte opened the meeting by noting her agenda included using the opportunity to move safety forward. "I believe we can make the [Secretary of Defense's] 50-percent goal and also create some deep roots for future programs," she said. The unprecedented attendance of so many senior officers discussing safety provided the momentum to integrate safety into all operations.

Four committees, representing the aviation, afloat, ashore, and ground-tactical communities, are forging ahead with the

agenda set by the council's discussions, which focused on short- and long-term initiatives and resource issues. Significant topics included operational risk management, safety culture, and traffic mishaps. The 50-percent mishap-reduction campaign also was a major topic, but, as Secretary England pointed out, "The goal isn't really fifty percent. We'll settle for fifty percent, but we don't want anyone injured or killed."

Approach magazine is dedicated to reducing aviation mishaps. With a very high percent of all aviation mishaps tied to some form of human error, we need to rededicate our efforts, change the way we do business, and target our weakest link: preventable human errors. You can see in the aviation-mishap status update below that we have quite a ways to go to reach our goal.

An overall, across-the-board reduction of mishaps requires intrusive leadership and everyone's dedicated efforts. It also requires changes in how way we do things, what we expect of each other, and what we accept as being operationally "normal." Finally, it requires every Sailor, Marine and DoN civilian to take a turn on looking out for each other—the same way you look out for your family members.

This issue has some Great Achievements!

RADM Dick Brooks
Commander Naval Safety Center

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Here's information on our safety status as we work toward the goal.

Aviation (Rates = Mishaps Per 100,000 Flight Hours)

Class-A Flight Mishaps (FY04 thru 8 June)

Service	Total/Rate	FY03 thru 8 June	FY04 Goal*	FY05 Goal*	FY01-03 Avg	Fighter/Attack	Helo
USN:	9/1.27	17/2.15	14/1.24	10/0.88	20.3/1.77	7/4.43	1/70
USMC:	10/4.44	8/2.99	10/2.75	7/1.94	10.3/2.77	4/4.36	5/4.95

* Goals based on FY02 baseline.
■ FY04/05 rate above goal.

For current information on aviation statistics visit:
www.safetycenter.navy.mil/statistics/aviation/default.htm